

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEDAN 00005 040341Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 FBIE-00 OPR-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /065 W

-----040346Z 062371 /61

R 040300Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

SECSTATE WASHDC 666

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID

SUBJ: BOMBINGS IN MEDAN

REF: A. JAKARTA 00020; B. MEDAN 0552

1. NEW YEAR HOLIDAY WEEKEND PASSED WITHOUT FURTHER BOMBING INCIDENTS AS HAD BEEN RUMORED WOULD OCCUR. EXTRA POLICE WERE ASSIGNED TO PATROL MEDAN'S CENTRAL COMMERCIAL/ENTERTAINMENT AREA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARMY SECURITY OFFICIALS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WERE ALSO ON PATROL.

2. THE GREAT UNKNOWN AT THIS POINT IS JUST WHO, OR WHAT ORGANIZATION, WAS BEHIND CHRISTMAS BOMBINGS. LOCAL POLICE AND MILITARY SECURITY OFFICIALS APPEAR GENUINELY IN THE DARK ON THIS POINT AND THEY HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY RELUCTANT EVEN TO SPECULATE ON IT. IT SEEMS APPARENT, HOWEVER, FROM DOCUMENTS SENT TO CONSULATE AND OTHERS (REF B), AS WELL AS FROM CHOICE OF TARGETS, THAT PERPETRATORS WANTED PEOPLE TO CONCLUDE THAT RADICAL MOSLEMS WERE BEHIND THE INCIDENTS. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT OFFICIALS ARE CONTINUING A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. MALAYSIAN CONSUL SAYS HE WAS APPROACHED BY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS FROM KOWILHAN I WHO WANTED HIS VIEWS ON WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE BOMBINGS. (MALAYSIAN CONSUL HAS WIDE RANGE OF CONTACTS AMONG STUDENTS AND MOSLEM YOUTH GROUPS.)
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3. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE INITIAL REACTION OF MOST OF OUR NON-OFFICIAL CONTACTS WAS THAT SOME ARM OF THE GOI WAS BEHIND THE BOMBINGS. WE HAVE SEEN OR HEARD NOTHING CONCRETE TO SUPPORT THIS AND THEREFORE MUST CONSIDER IT PURE SPECULATION. IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT SO MANY LOCAL CIVILIAN LEADERS ARE PREPARED TO THINK OF INCIDENTS IN THOSE TERMS. THEIR RATIONALE

IS THAT THE GOI CREATES A TENSE SITUATION IN ORDER TO HAVE THE PRETEXT FOR A SECURITY SLAMPDOWN IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD OR EVEN THE RATIONALE FOR A POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION OF THE ELECTION IF THAT IS SUBSEQUENTLY DEEMED NECESSARY.

4. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME, I SEE NO INDICATION THAT THESE INCIDENTS POSE A DIRECT THREAT TO THE CONSULATE, LIA, AMERICANS OR TO FOREIGNERS IN GENERAL. PATTERN OF BOMBINGS INDICATES THAT, TO THE EXTENT THERE WAS A TARGET GROUP, IT WAS THE CHINESE COMMUNITY. THIS MIGHT EVEN BE CALLED THE NORM FOR POLITICAL/SOCIAL VIOLENCE IN MEDAN.

5. AS LONG AS THE PERPETRATORS REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED AND UNAPPREHENDED, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ABSOLUTELY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGNERS MAY BECOME TARGETS OF SOME SIMILAR INCIDENT. THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY IS LARGE AND VERY VISIBLE AND MIGHT WELL BECOME THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION OF ALIENATED INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS SEEKING TO WORK OUT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS WITH THE INDONESIAN SYSTEM. MOBIL OIL CO. AND BECHTEL CORPORATION ADVISED THEIR EMPLOYEES TO STAY AWAY FROM PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT OVER THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY. IN ADDITION, MOBIL SOUGHT INFORMATION ON INCIDENTS AND GUIDANCE FROM PERTAMINA BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. UNTIL THE SITUATION IS FURTHER CLARIFIED, A DEGREE OF CAUTION WILL REMAIN ADVISABLE FOR THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY.

KILPATRICK

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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